

NOV 6 1990

Christine Ellis Donahue
1590 Woodward
Lakewood, OH 44107

226-3493

Mr. Tom Hinson
The Cleveland Museum of Art
11150 East Blvd.
Cleveland, OH 44106

Dear Mr. Hinson,

A while back I wrote to you expressing my desire to be considered for inclusion in next year's May Show. I currently have a show of my paintings at Mather Gallery, Case Western Reserve University. I'm hoping that you'll have a chance to get over to Mather Gallery, as this would be an ideal opportunity for you to see my current work. The show continues through November 9.

I'm enclosing a review of my show, along with some other newspaper articles and a current resume. Please let me know if there's anything else I need to do at this time to be considered for inclusion in The May Show.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

Christine Ellis Donahue

Christine Ellis Donahue

“WILD THINGS”

Large Paintings by *Christine Ellis Donahue*



The Mather Gallery

October 5 - November 9, 1990

Opening Reception: Friday, October 5
5:30-7:30 p.m.

Gallery Talk: Friday, October 19
12:00 p.m.

Gallery Hours: M,T,Th,Fr.-12-5 Wed.-12-8

Case Western Reserve University 11111 Euclid Ave., Cleveland, OH 44106



“Wild Things”
Large Paintings by
*Christine Ellis
Donahue*
Oct. 5-Nov. 9

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Cleveland, OH
Permit No. 142

The Mather Gallery

Hours: Monday-Friday, 12:00-5:00 p.m.
Wednesday, 12:00-8:00 p.m.

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12:00 p.m.

CWRU
Thwing Center
11111 Euclid Ave.
Cleveland, OH 44106

Wild Works

Mather Gallery's latest exhibit captures the fun and colorful aspects of nature

by Gretchen Meigs
Assistant Features Editor

Wild Things, Large Paintings by Christine Ellis Donahue, is a smorgasbord of animals from crickets to sled dogs, painted in vivid, fun colors. The exhibit opened at the Mather Gallery last Friday and runs through November 9.

Donahue's paintings are big, bold and striking. Her colors come dangerously close to neon, but manage to escape the tiresome look of these overused shades. In fact, they are refreshing and warm. Donahue uses these colors to portray the natural beauty of nature. Her animals and objects are perhaps even more vivid and lifelike than reality. One would only find this quality of hue in a utopia, and flowers as alive and beautiful as these are rarely found at the local florist.

Donahue uses color and intricate, intriguing patterns to create interesting, almost human creatures. Her bugs, dogs, reptiles and birds are full of character and personality. The organic, picturesque side of nature's creatures is shown in "Scorpion." Donahue's elegant representation of this beast abates its deadly, sinister side, bringing forth the beauty inherent in its form. Her mischievous, friendly-looking dogs look as if they would like to come home with you.

Even man's mortal enemy, the cockroach, is natural and harmless in Donahue's eye. In "Cockroach," as well as the rest of the Large Paintings, a detailed background surrounds the subject of the work.

Wild Things

continued from page 12

Aire, Dmitri," a painting of sled dogs, penguins and popsicles, is made of reproductions of a Klondike Bar wrapper.

"Budgie," a bird surrounded by newspaper with a border of bird toys, seems innocent, until one notices the rows of smirking cats behind the bird. "Lumen, Solomon's Seal, Bix, Hustler, Necessity," a simple portrait of Scottish terriers on a plaid background, is just as amusing. The dark side of reality is transformed and made light of in "Bali," a seeming essay on cult practices. The subject is a large chicken, on a background of fruit, flowers and tribal masks, with a border of ancient drawings of silhouettes.

Wild Things is an eye-catching approach to the animal kingdom. Donahue's sense of humor is readily apparent in her work, as is her appreciation of nature.

Donahue will be discussing her perspective on *Wild Things* in a Gallery Talk on Friday, October 19 at noon in the Mather Gallery.



Paintings by Christine Ellis Donahue at the Mather Gallery

Observer / Alec Rooney

Almost all of the paintings have a well-defined border of small images related to the subject. The background in "Cockroach" is a picnic tablecloth, slices of lemon meringue pie and sugar containers, and its border consists of alternating salt and pepper shakers.

Donahue's backgrounds are

amusing, relevant and sometimes

ironic. She uses them to play games with the stereotypes and subtle connections of the human mind. Her associations range from simple and obvious as in "Bees," a collection of flowers, honeycombs and bear-shaped honey dispensers behind two bees to complex and thought-

provoking.

"Frog" is a huge, happy frog in a sea of bright lily pads and flowers. Surrounding the frog are two borders, the inner one a delightful array of tadpoles at various stages of development, and the outer one of flies. The border of "Belka, Frosty

see *Wild Things*, page 13



Lindy Barnett, left, and Rosalie Cohen, with works by John Sargent, left, and John Pearson at Cleveland Center for Contemporary Art. PD/CHRIS STEPHENS

'A to Zizi' of contemporary art

By HELEN CULLINAN
ART CRITIC

Rosalie Cohen and Lindy Barnett, co-organizers of "A to Zizi" at the Cleveland Center for Contemporary Art in the Galleria, have created a summer pleaser of unusual distinction.

The "A" in the show's title is represented by New York geometric abstractionist Richard Anuszkiewicz and Cleveland artist Anna Arnold. Anuszkiewicz's piece is a colorful "Sequential Series" silk-screen print. Arnold's work is a painted wood cutout "Leopard Lady."

On the "Z" side is Los Angeles-based ZiZi Raymond, whose sculpture and drawings deal with the relationships of objects in the context of both black and lighthearted humor.

In between are works as diverse as the new lyricism of Gary Bower and the saturated color abstraction of Andrea Hahn, the architectural purity of Sol Lewitt and the color-field dazzle of Russ Maddick, the graphic clarity of Robert Mangold and spatial vigor Edwin Mieczkowski, the figural fantasy of Scott Miller and the geometric poetry of Julian Stanczak.

There's new flat geometric painting with Mondrian references by John Pearson, pop-style object collage by Rita Montlack, Greek vase imagery painting by Martin Boyle and electro art by Garie Crawford Waltzer and Miller Horns. There's referential picture/object painting by Patricia Zinsmeister Parker and Sun-Hee Kwon, cut-out furniture by Gail Newman, a reminiscence of Tienanmen Square by Phyllis Seltzer and a delicate watercolor floral still life by Phyllis Sloane.

Cohen and Barnett, co-directors of the Cleveland Center for Con-



"Budgie," acrylic on canvas, by Christine Donahue, in "A to Zizi" show. PD/CHRIS STEPHENS

■ "A to Zizi," supported by the Cleveland and Gund foundations and the Ohio Arts Council, can be seen at the Cleveland Center for



C.A.G.E.'s animals bug some as too wild

Christine Ellis Donahue paints animals. She paints dogs, birds, lizards and even insects. Some people don't like the insects.

"People are always asking me why I don't paint pretty animals like cats. I'm always being asked to paint cats," Donahue says.

Donahue is a wildlife artist who is not a wildlife artist. Here in the Midwest, in what the rest of the art community calls "the fur and feather belt," wildlife art is the most widely collected kind of art.

Reproductions marketed as prints in gigantic "limited editions," soaring eagles and growling tigers seem to be essential ingredients of doctors' offices and corporate hallways.

But Donahue's animals are different. The artist, showing at C.A.G.E. (Cincinnati Artists Group Effort), paints large, colorful canvases featuring an animal shown against a pattern of related objects:

An owl sits in front of a cluster of berries, surrounded by a border of dark, leafless trees. A scorpion sits on an Indian blanket, with a border of cow skulls.

The paintings are a combination of animal portraits and bold, billboard design, a kind of pop wildlife style.

"I'm not a naturalist," Donahue says. "I get an idea for a painting and then I study the animals. I'm not trying to be scientifically accurate."

Viewers may be put off by the giant roach on the tablecloth, but the artist will not succumb to appeals to "paint dogs drinking beer at a bar." Donahue, a primary school teacher, has painted night club murals in Chicago and New York. She says that many of her ideas come from her students.

Many of Donahue's paintings suggest illustrations in science textbooks, built upon pictorial imagery and local color. But the best, such as her dragonfly canvas, use



Owen
Findsen

Art



"Frog" by Christine Ellis
Donahue is part of the current
C.A.G.E. exhibit.

animal camouflage patterns and subtle color changes to produce fascinating color tensions.

Donahue is a Cleveland-area artist whose works fill the lower gallery at C.A.G.E. Upstairs there is a variety of work by Chicago artists titled "Domestic Realism." The selection includes lithographs by Christine Nurse, large figure paintings by Maria Tomasula, and others who play with theme of figures in domestic settings.

The video of the month shows the works of Tennessee artist David Hall, who uses fireworks and Southern influences to create a style of performance art that couldn't be done in New York.

The exhibition, the last show of the C.A.G.E. season, continues through July 27. C.A.G.E. Gallery is at 344 West Fourth St. Hours are noon-4 p.m. Thursday through Saturday. Phone 381-2437.



Ohio Arts Council Individual Artist Fellowship Recipient/FY 1988

CHRISTINE ELLIS DONAHUE

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

1990 Mather Gallery, Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, Ohio
1990 C.A.G.E., Cincinnati, Ohio
1988 Trumbull Art Gallery, Warren, Ohio

EXHIBITIONS

1990 Women Artists: A Celebration!, Youngstown, Ohio
1989 A to Zizi, The Cleveland Center for Contemporary Art, Cleveland, Ohio
1989 Three Rivers Arts Festival, Pittsburgh, PA.
1989 15th T.A.G. Annual, Trumbull Art Gallery, Warren, Ohio
1988 The May Show, The Cleveland Museum of Art, Cleveland, Ohio
1988 All Ohio Exhibition, Canton Art Institute, Canton, Ohio
1988 Three Rivers Arts Festival, Pittsburgh, PA.
1988 65th Annual Spring Show, Erie Art Museum, Erie, PA.
1987 Poverty Plenty, The Body Shop, Columbus, Ohio
1987 Annual Juried Exhibition, Fine Arts Association, Chagrin Falls, Ohio
1987 The Peoples' Art Show, Cleveland State University, Cleveland, Ohio
1987 13th T.A.G Annual, Trumbull Art Gallery, Warren, Ohio
1987 64th Annual Spring Show, Erie Art Museum, Erie, PA.
Painting Award.
1986 All Ohio Exhibition, Canton Art Institute, Canton, Ohio
1986 63rd Annual Spring Show, Erie Art Museum, Erie, PA.

1986 Annual Juried Exhibition, Beck Center, Lakewood, Ohio

1985 47th Area Artists Annual, The Butler Institute of American Art, Youngstown, Ohio, Painting Award.

1985 Three Rivers Arts Festival, Pittsburgh, PA.

1985 Domo Project, Spaces, Cleveland, Ohio

1984 46th Annual Area Artists Annual, The Butler Institute of American Art, Youngstown, Ohio

1984 Art Week Exhibition, Mission Gallery, Cleveland, Ohio

1984 Fashion Moda, Spaces, Cleveland, Ohio

1984 61st Annual Spring Show, Erie Art Museum, Erie, PA.

1983 12th Annual Juried Exhibition, Fine Arts Association, Willoughby, Ohio

1983 60th Annual Spring Show, Erie Art Museum, Erie, PA., Painting Award.

1982 Annual Juried Exhibition, Beck Center, Lakewood, Ohio

1982 Annual Juried Exhibition, Jewish Community Center, Cleveland, Ohio

1982 59th Annual Spring Show, Erie Art Museum, Erie, PA., Painting Award.

1982 Choice Painting, The Center for Contemporary Art, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY.

PUBLIC COLLECTIONS

1989 Site specific installation, Lime Ricky's, Des Plains, NY.

1988 Site specific installation, Gatz, Chicago, IL.

1987 Site specific mural, Club Coconuts, Cleveland, Ohio

1987 Site specific installation, Night Shoes, Boston, Mass.

Rockwell International, Pittsburgh, PA.

Robinson Developmental Center, Pittsburgh, PA.

Goodwill Industries Administrative Center, Pittsburgh, PA.

AWARDS

1988 Ohio Arts Council Individiaul Artist Fellowship Recipient

EDUCATION

Ohio State University, Cleveland Institute of Art, Virginia Commonwealth University, BFA Ohio University

THE CLEVELAND MUSEUM OF ART

ARTIST BIOGRAPHY

MAY 88

Please complete and return the following questionnaire for our reference file on May Show artists.

FULL NAME: Christine Ellis Donahue PRESENT POSITION Painter/Art Teacher

DATE AND PLACE OF BIRTH: Ellwood City, Pa Berea City Schools

CATEGORY/PRIMARY MEDIA: Large Acrylic Paintings

ART TRAINING (Schools, Scholarships, etc.):

Ohio State University, Virginia Commonwealth University,
Cleveland Institute of Art
BFA, Ohio University

EXHIBITIONS IN WHICH YOUR WORK HAS BEEN SHOWN (include location and year):

See attached

COLLECTIONS THAT NOW INCLUDE YOUR WORK:

Site specific mural- Club Coconuts, Cleveland, OH
Site specific installation - Night Shoes - Boston, Mass.
Rockwell International, Pittsburgh, PA
Robinson Developmental Center, Pittsburgh, PA

AWARDS:

Recipient of 1988 Ohio Arts Council Individual Artists Fellowship
Painting Award, Annual Spring Show, Erie Art Museum, Erie PA

We would appreciate having a statement about your philosophy and work as an artist—either general or something specific about the piece(s) selected for this year's May Show to aid us in the preparation of gallery talks and in the release of publicity materials. For more space, use the back of this sheet.

CHRISTINE ELLIS DONAHUE

EXHIBITIONS

1988 The May Show, The Cleveland Museum of Art, Cleveland, OH.

1988 Solo Exhibition, Trumbull Art Gallery, Warren, OH.

1988 Three Rivers Arts Festival, Pittsburgh, PA.

1988 65th Annual Spring Show, Erie Art Museum, Erie PA.

1987 Poverty Plenty, The Body Shop, Columbus, OH.

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